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The Railroad Rate Hearing at Washington.

Representatives of the railroad interests are gathering in Washington for a formal presentation of their side of the rate regulation question before the Senate committee.

The one fact which should be kept clearly in mind by every man who writes, talks or thinks about the railway rate question is that our national prosperity stands or falls with our transportation system. It depends not only upon the existence of a certain number of locomotives, cars, rails and a right of way, but upon the maintenance of these and all other appurtenances in a state of the highest efficiency. Freight and passengers not only must be moved, but they must also be moved with speed and safety. The gross earnings of the railways for freight traffic for the year ending June 30, 1903, were \$1,335,768,581. Were rates subjected to a general reduction of 25 per cent., there would be an apparent saving to shippers and consumers of more than \$300,000,000 a year, Yet this could be effected only by the sacrifice of working efficiency, entailing | BANKS against the too ingenious and a loss to the community of a sum which fertile fabricators who have feigned would not be covered by the apparent

saving. It is useless to assume that there would be no such loss simply because of the apolis correspondent of the Cincinnati impossibility of expressing it by figures. Compared with rates prevailing in other lands, American rates are admitted to reposing by his own vine and figtree, a be low. Yet the part played in even that low cost by the item of efficiency pily wagnerizing, "enjoying a simple of service is generally overlooked or disregarded. As it is, with all our equipment of powerful locomotives, capacious cars, and ever improving roadbed, and in spite of express freight trains which haul loaded trains directly through from city to city, and even from coast to coast, there is persistent complaint of delay in the transportation of merchandise. Goods are ordered by telegraph with instructions to put a "tracer" on their heels to insure quick despatch. A reduction in rates would impair seriously the present efficiency and the con-

sequent loss is impossible of estimate. It is to be hoped that the hearings before the committee may be effective in the removal from the public mind of two mistaken notions. One of these is that railway rates are out of proportion to service rendered and the other is that rates can be reduced at no expense to any one excepting a few "railway magnates." Much of the uproar springs from an idea that the public is being robbed by the individual rate makers and that the rate makers own the roads. imitting that there are isolated cases of excessive charges, it must also be admitted that there is no evidence whatever, nor is there even any assertion. that rates in general are other than entirely reasonable.

It is useless to say that a Federal commission authorized to fix any and all rates would congern itself only with the unreasonable ones. Railroads are indispensable in our national economy. Their continued operation, individually as well as collectively, depends upon actual or prospective margin of profit. Under a continual menace of interference with its sources of revenue, by a power outside its own organization, no railway management can reach or maintain its greatest efficiency. Shippers will inevitably appeal to any court or commission which may be established for they had previously taken no exception. This can result only in a derangement and an unsettling of managerial plans for improved efficiency, as a consequence of uncertainty in the amount and source

of revenue. The most desirable result possible of attainment by the Senate committee would be the restoration of the whole question to the terms of the original proposition as they were contained in the President's message. That called for the enforcement of existing laws for the correction of recognized evils, and was coupled with the now generally overlooked expression, "I am of the opinion that at present it would be undesirable, if it were not impracticable, finally to clothe the commission with general authority to fix railroad rates.".

Nothing has happened during the last four months to make official regulation of railway rates any more desirable or any more practicable than it was when these words were written. Departure from the main idea has plunged us into a jungle of theories, speculations, abstractions and uncertainties. Let us get back again to sanity and a firm A large majority of the Chamber has infound ation. FIRM OF MAIS

The Polar Ice.

Physical geographers are asking whether we are now witnessing the gradual disappearance of a glacial peand it has now been shown that the ice of the Antarctic, and perhaps in all

Among the observations that have led phenomena are the statements of Prof. snow in Spitzbergen is now 2,000 feet | from the navy, the vessels of which are above the sea; of Von DRYGALSKI that to be distributed in the chief ports. to advance the glaciers in 72 degrees number of soldiers. To protect from to advance the glaciers in 72 degrees number of soldiers. To protect from mercial newspapers, such as Export of Bernorth latitude, where he observed thefai mjury the track and permanent way, all lin or the British Board of Trade Journal,

who has taken photographs in Grinnell along by glaciers, this waste being fifty feet higher than the present level of the glaciers.

The Antarctic explorers report that the ice is retreating there. Mr. FERRAR, of the British expedition, says that the Ross ice sheet on Victoria Land has retreated, on an average, fifteen miles since Ross saw it, sixty-five years ago. Captain Scott, commander of the

Bricky his party had found these moraines or terraces of waste rock 800 feet above the present ice and everywhere there were signs of the vastly greater extent of the ice sheet in former times.

There are innumerable glaciers, but in 11 degrees of latitude, only four of them discharge ice into the sea from the inland. The "dead glaciers," as Capt. Scott calls them, are practically stationary and are gradually wasting away from the summer thawing. Far down below the present ends of the glaciers, and high above them on the sides of the valleys, are the heaps of moraine showing the former extent of these ice streams.

Sir JOHN MURRAY, commenting on this evidence, says that a retreat of the ice is certainly now in progress in Victoria Land and probably all over the Antarctic regions. No opinion has yet been expressed as to whether this phenomenon is due to greater radiation and consequently more melting now than formerly, or to dryer atmospheric conditions and therefore a smaller amount

The Simple Life to North Meridian Street.

LORD, LORD, how this world is given to lying! It has been our privilege to defend the Hon. CHARLES WARREN FAIRhim as giving his days and nights to politics, beset by BEVERIDGE and shaping difficultly a far off boom. An Indian-Enquirer comes to our side, which is Truth's. He shows the Vice-President more altitudinous CHARLES WAGNER haplife at his beautiful North Meridian residence." We see him, the dreams still dewy in his eyes, up with the lark and

" It has been his custom most of his life to be up and dressed before 6 in the morning, and he is still a very early riser."

He lays out his hardy garden. He feeds the robins. When no newspaper correspondent ready to lug in CINCINNA-TUS is about, he speeds the spade. "All day he is sticking closely to his home;" and "so far there is no evidence that he is paying the slightest attention to party affairs, but it is probable that he has his weather eye on the situation, as he generally knows what is going on about him. Naturally. He overlooks the situation. He is high above it. Like some tall oak he lifts his awful form.

. If the Hon. ELAM NEAL, Republican State Committeeman for the Eleventh district, is to retire because he has a Federal job: if the Hon. KIT SILLS, Republican State Committeeman for the Tenth district, will be a candidate for reelection, what is that to a mind aloof

Makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise."

We commend to all young Americans. the Tenderloins, the matutinal statesman of North Meridian street.

The Railway Strike in Italy,

According to a telegram from Rome, it is feared that no fewer than three hundred thousand employees will take part in the strike which began on Sunday on the lines running to Naples and to Rimini. and which may quickly extend to all the Government railways in Italy. It remains to be seen how the Ministers of King VIOTOR EMMANUEL will deal with a situation the seriousness of which may be immensely aggravated should the a review and reduction of rates to which | labor leaders order a so-called sympathetic strike in other branches of industry.

Before marking the energetic measures taken by the Italian Government to avert a paralysis of its railway system, we should note that the strike was caused by the refusal of the new Prime Minister. Strnor FORTIS, to comply with the demand of the railway workmen for the modification of certain clauses dealing with the control of employees in the Government Railway bill which is about to be discussed in the Chamber of Deputies. Signor FORTIS having declared on Saturday that any further concession to the demands of the employees would be incompatible with an efficient management of the railroads, the representatives of the workmen withdrew to the headquarters of the Socialist party and we have said, began on the following day. The attempt to coerce the Ministry by obstructing the main arteries of commerce is applauded by the Socialist Deputies and the Socialist newspapers, but is denounced by all the other political parties and organs of public opinion. dicated a willingness even to forego, if necessary, the customary Easter vacation, in order that the Railway bill may

be made a law as rapidly as possible. While it is recognized that the facilities for travel and for the transport of riod. It has been known for some time freight will necessarily be much conthat the ice is dwindling in the Arctic, tracted by the colossal strike projected. the Government has made arrangeis melting faster than it forms in a part | ments which seem likely to prove effective for running two trains a day each way on all of the principal routes. But how, it may be asked, will the trains be thing for Chicago." to this conclusion concerning Arctic ice | manned and safeguarded against molestation? In the first place, the necessary GARWOOD that the line of perpetual engineers and firemen will be drafted the Greenland ice is receding and that it Every railway station will be occupied would require a more humid climate by troops, and every train will carry a

to their former extent; and of Dr. Schei, the lines will be patrolled by cavalry. Inasmuch, however, as in spite of the Land of rock waste that had been borne | patrol some damage might be done to a roadbed, each train is to be provided with skilled workmen whose business it will be to complete repairs with all possible promptitude.

Although such precautions have been taken, and although it is able to draw upon the resources of the army and navy, the Italian Government is keenly alive to the magnitude of the task that will be imposed upon it by a strike of

Tod thousand workmen. Many graphical Society, a few weeks ago, that a Minister would have shirked the duty which Signor FORTIS has determined to perform: it may be remembered that Signor GIOLITTI's bill dealing with the same subject was withdrawn in deference to Socialist clamor. According to Socialist newspapers, the present measure is even less acceptable to workmen than was the former project.

That is why the Socialist leaders have resolved to carry out at this time the railway strike by the threat of which Signor GIOLITTI was terrorized. Signor FORTIS, on the contrary, seems to have made up his mind that the general interests of the country shall not be sacrificed in order that the claims of a special class of citizens may be enforced. He cannot, of course, guarantee the public against a material reduction of freight and pass enger traffic.

Early Start in Massachusetts.

Massachusetts elects a full set of State officers annually, and, although the General Court of 1905 has not adjourned yet, the pre-convention campaign is already under way in the Republican and the Democratic camps alike. Governor Douglas, the Democrat who defeated Governor Bares last fall, has offended Mayor Collins and the Boston Democratic leaders by refusing to appoint their man, W. T. A. FITZGERALD, Police Commissioner for Boston, and has named Col. Cole, "a wealthy, aristocratic young fellow, a bachelor fond of club life, who has no affiliation with the Boston machine," for the office.

Governor BATES found the Boston Police Commissionership a stumbling block of no small proportions, and much of his unpopularity in the city was due to the man whom he selected to fill it. Mayor Collins's friends declare that Governor Douglas had promised to name the man supported by the Mayor and the city machine. What they wanted was an "Irish-American Democrat." Col. Cole appears to be nothing but an American-American Democrat, and consequently unacceptable. He is guilty of maintaining cordial social relations with Republicans, an additional count against him.

Lieutenant-Governor CURTIS GUILD. Jr., is likely to be the Republican nominee for Governor in the fall. Some of Governor BATES'S friends want him to run again, but the Republican voters show no mad enthusiasm for another opportunity to vote against the head of their ticket. However, Governor BATES and Lieutenant-Governor Guild are going to be very polite, and if either wants the nomination the other will not oppose him-at present. Gen. GUILD's promotion is expected, and already several candidates for the office he has now are talked of. EBEN S. DRAPER of Hopedale, brother of Gen. WILLIAM F. DRAPEB. has already announced his willingness to take the nomination. Col. GOETTING of Springfield and Judge HALL of Taunton Jewish are being groomed by their friends to fit them for the job. Attorney-General PARKER is going back to his private law practice when his present term expires. and especially to the sons of darkness in and Gen. E. R. CHAMPLIN has let it be known that he is willing to serve the State as its chief legal adviser.

The Springfield Union thinks that Mr. DRAPER is too early, and that the matter of nominations for the fall campaign should not be agitated until the General Court adjourns, at least. The Massachusetts election this fall will be particularly interesting because it may give some evidence of the extent to which the voters are affected by the idea of reciprocity with Canada. The withdrawal of the Newfoundland bait privilege, caused by the failure of the Hay-Bond treaty, is an important matter for the fishermen and fish dealers on the coast. and may have a decided influence on the vote. In addition to this it will be interesting to see how Governor Doug-LAS'S popularity compares with that of WILLIAM L. DOUGLAS, the shoemaker who knocked out BATES in 1904.

For Municipal Sculpture.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN FERGUSON, & lumber merchant with a good share of that admirable Chicago public spirit and pride in no mean city, has left \$1,000,000 as a trust fund, the income of which is to be used under the direction of the trustees of the Chicago Art Institute for "the erection and maintenance of enduring statuary and monuments of stone, granite or bronze, in the parks, along the boulevards and in other public places, commemorating worthy men and women decided to order the strike, which, as of America or important events in American history."

Invested at 4 per cent., this bequest will allow Chicago to spend a million on sculpture in every twenty-five years; Wisely used, and under a general and far reaching plan, this money should do much for the honor of American sculpture and Chicago.

Let us hope that it will not be frittered away on mere portrait statues, on conventional representations of local great men, but devoted to works of imaginative and decorative statuary. The purpose of the donor will thus be carried out in the best and truest sense, and American sculptors will be able to use their finest creative genius.

As our old friend Fra LOBADO says, so long as we keep away from the Prince Albert coated statues it will be a great

Our "Consular Repo ts" have just printed list of opportunities for American contractors to supply work or materials for enterprises in many countries. Consul-General GUENTHER of Frankfort, who sends the list, has evidently taken the idea and perhaps the information from foreign com-

which make a special feature of collecting from all parts of the world news of opportunities for the investment of capital and the employment of foreign brains and energy. They look eagerly for such chances abroad. The exterior investments of British capital, about half in India and the other plonies and half in foreign lands, are said to have yielded interest in 1901 amounting to more than \$300,000,000, as against \$90,000,000 in 1880. In other words, British capital is

working all over the world and is seeking for every chance that promises profit.

The list of the authorized enterprises compiled by Mr. GUENTHER includes bridges, electric lighting plants, waterworks, wharves, railroads and rolling stock, electrio street car lines, telegraph lines, street widening and other utilities and improvements. American capitalists, manufacturers and contractors would doubtless often find such compilations as this of fresh and authentic information, convenient and suggestive.

In Alabama there are no local lines save branch roads and a half dosen private logging roads. Consequently Mr. Beran's preference would mean for this State nothing but Federal ownership and centralization.—Mobile Register.

Exactly. State ownership of thos branch roads and private logging roads is Mr. BRYAN's large concession to State rights, his saving remnant of the earlier Jeffersonianism.

American Another Jew on the Marriage of a Jewess and a Christian.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Answer ing Mr. Lazarre's letter, "Marriage of Christian and Jewess," in to-day's Sun, it is but fair to advance an opinion that "the publicity, &c., given to the recent engagement," which evones his bitter disapproval, was probably entirely unsought by the interested parties, and is far more caused by the striking difference in their present individual stations in life than by the difference in their faiths.

After all, the question of intermarriage

between different faiths is simply a query whether man should be subservient to his faith in even so unreasoning, indefinable and uncontrollable a matter as love, er whether one's faith ought to be made subordinate in

such matters.
"Love laughs at locksmiths," and inter marriage between different faiths, despite religious bans, always has occurred and ikely ever will occur.

Mr. Lazarre further censures the lady in

uestion for having (in his opinion) "de-iberately, in certain recent newspaper articles, pheid the unlovely side of Ghetto Judaism. Why such criticism of a series of sketches, which, after all, simply tell existing conditions which after an simply tell existing conditions in a certain section of our very cosmopolitan city? It is as uncalled for as would be a criticism of a sketch of Mulberry Bend, or Little Italy, or depicting the luxury and spiendor of Central Park West or Riverside. Further, why the slur "that Christian asso-ation has failed to give this lady, dignity, c"?

Mr. Lazarre apparently simply wishes to express his disapproval of the contemplated union, yet his statements are bigoted, unfair nd discourteous.

A few lines on your editorial on the same

Both Jew and Christian generally do not yet sufficiently recognize that their specific faiths are fundamentally identical, and that existing differences are simply in the elabora-

Moreover, the Jewish faith is strikingly one

Moreoven, the Jewish faith is strikingly one of qualities and personal virtues, as proven by its minute study of and resultant laws governing hygiene, family relations, jurisprudence, &c.; yet it is emphatically opposed to proselytism (quantity).

On the other hand, Christianity embodies surprisingly much of Judaism, but also emphatically advocates proselytism (ever since the days of St. Paul), and its present dominance is likely largely due to this policy.

A prisoner released from long confinement in a dungeon can only very gradually accustom himself to sunlight and liberty, and therefore the Jew, in this country of equal rights and protection to all irrespective of creed, is, even at this late day, not fully accustomed to the present glorious contrast to the gloomy suppression and oppression of past centuries; and, while the Jew will encourage and welcome totally free and unrestricted relations in trade, finance and professions because of their absolute necessity to personal welfare and prosperity, yet intimate social relations with the Christian have few precedents in Jewish history, and now, because of the large Jewish population, are not found very necessary to his social welfare.

welfare.

Above all, actual intermarriage with the Christian is a step which even the liberal minded or the irreligious Jew hesitates in taking. Naturally, the recent and present large

However, it seems safe to predict that con ed residence in this absolutely free continued friendly relations with linguity to his Christian neighbor. propinquity to his Christian heighbor, win little by little evolve a change teading to es-tablish social friendship and relations, and that, in spite of probably continued bans of both Jewish and Christian faiths, intermar-riage will continue and even probably in-crease. ADOLPH OPPENHEIMER, NEW YORK, April 16.

A Woman Suffragist on Metherhood

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In the eulogy f Frances E. Willard by Senator Beveridge, on the ecasion of the unveiling of the Illinois statue of her in Statuary Hall at the nation's capital, he says The mother of all mothers, the sister of all wives to every child the lover, Frances E. Willard sacri ficed her own life to the happiness of her sisters For, after all, she knew that, with all her gifts and all the halo of her God sent mission, the humblest mother was yet greater far than she."

Why should such an estimate of herself be imputed to Frances Willard? She was above all a Christian, and this is not a Christian idea. When Jesus answered the woman who blessed the mother who bore him, he said: "Yea, rather blessed are hey that hear the Word of God and keep it." is, then, something possible for womanhood more blessed than to be even the most exalted mother For mere motherhood is a physical function, an ich a function cannot be the highest achieve of a being endowed with intelligence and soul. How clearly this would have appeared if the orator, instead of the name of Frances Willard. had used that of George Washington or Phillips Brooks and said: "The humblest father was yet

greater than he!" Perhaps this extravagant praise of the "humbles nother" was given because the question of "race suicide" is now so much discussed. But if there is danger of race suicide at all, it is not from a defi ciency of that motherhood which is so humble that it aspires to little more than to bring children into the world, and takes no thought of the con ditions which surround them. Statistics show where the dangers lie when they tell such a dreary fact as that one-half the children die before the

attain the age of 5 years.

The noble understanding of Prances Willard, illumined by her great mother heart, apprehended and taught that the world needs a womanbood sufficiently elevated to be capable of rearing chil-dren in health and virtue; and to be possessed of the self-respect to desire their share of politics ower to enable them to seek out and secure better onditions in which to rear their children than those that now prevail. She besought for mothers the boon of a voice in the laws in those words of hers, chosen to be inscribed on the pedestal of her statue: I charge you give them power to protect along life's treacherous highway those whom they have LAURA CLAY

Foreigners. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The ubiquitou "W. J. L.," who goes to the length of a column and a quarter to tell of all the disagreeable Americans he met while on his "penny a-line" excursion to Europe, and of the splendid impression he made by his snobbery, might reverse the picture and tell ome of the peculiarities of the French, German

and English tourists that we encounter here.

Dress, criticism of which is one of the first indications of anobbery, is local and, because a German "schoolmarm" tourist is wearing a straw hat with a stray feather on, shirt walst of red and short curist skirt of gray with tan shoes and yellow spats, it is not necessary to point out that she is any more out of good taste than the Kansas states

an to whom he refers.

Travelling is a pleasure and pastime with some an occupation with others, but those who have to combine the two must be forgiven if they have to dress in the clothes they purchased and wear NEW YORK, April 17.

Discreet.

First Bear-Aren't you going to see the Presi-

Second Bear-No; he has requested that no at-At East!

Henpeck-I have come to the concil Mr. Henpeck-Thank heaven

THE EQUITABLE'S AGENTS.

Their Meeting in New York To-day-Suggestions by an Insurance Man. To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: The conning of leading agents of the Equitable Life Assurance Society in this city may prove an effectual means either of ruining pe policyholders' prospects of rescuing their roperty or enabling them to obtain and

exercise that control over their own which should be vouchsafed them.

If the agents, even though casting their influence upon the side of President Alexander and the majority of the officers, instead of on he side of "James Hazen Hyde and Assolates," of whom we have heard more than a ittle within a few days, yet urge a programme suppression and carrying into effect the alleged "mutualization" already agreed upon, they will involve the company in endless litigation and, no matter what the outcome, the Equitable will emerge with a reputation which will seriously handicap its field representatives. In such a course these agents yould be guided by the following motives: First, a desire to protect their renewal missions by smoothing matters over.

Secondly, a desire to fasten upon the com-pany their own control through policyholders' proxies. Neither is an exalted motive, but both natural.

This policy would be deadly. It would make it harder to renew old policies and to sell new, ones. If proxy voting is granted the policyholders, there will be an undigni-fied scramble for proxies and a yet more disgraceful though not so open scramble to secure the directors after they are elected. The right policy is plainly indicated in the principle that all the surplus belongs to the olicyholders and that the stockholders have no interest beyond their 7 per cent, dividends. It bluntly opposes the truculent affirmations of owners of stock that much or all of the surplus belongs to them, surplus which they can secure only by extracting secret and un-lawful profits in the payment of unearned

salaries and by underwriting securities. Manifestly, this theory must be fought to the last ditch, and will be. The only ques-

tions are, how and by whom?
Legal difficulties of a serious nature confront the present "mutualization" scheme. There is an opinion of the Attorney-General There is an opinion of the Attorney-General against a similar provision in a new charter. There are the injunction proceedings, which can be kept alive by a single stockholder. More important is the blighting effect of the interpretation by James Hazen Hyde, that it is not to mean the abandonment of his preposterous claims as a stockholder and of the fact that the proxy voting feature has caused many observers to consider this a struggle between factions, both corrupt and each seeking selfish ends.

The road is open for a policy which will redeem the situation. The directors can rescind their action and extend to the policyholders the franchise under the terms of the charter, itself—i. e., to all persons insured for \$5,000 or more one vote to be cast personally, and not by proxy. Then the policyholders can elect, not twenty-eight out of fifty-two directors, but all of them.

Against this exercise of undoubted charter powers no injunction would lie. No new charter powers would be needed. What would be done is precisely what was intended by the first president of the company, an Alexander, and the second president, a Hyde, who together founded it.

"Personally and not by proxy" means "not by proxy," nothing more. It is not even susceptible of the narrow construction that against a similar provision in a new charter.

who together founded it.

"Personally and not by proxy" means "not by proxy," nothing more, It is not even susceptible of the narrow construction that "personally" standing alone might be. It includes every known mode of expressing the personal will of the voter. It includes casting votes of absent members by mail, which has been done in the largest life insurance company in the British Empire for over fifty years with a perfectly stable and a wonderfully efficient management as a result.

No more conservative body of men could be found than the holders of policies of \$5,000 or more in the Equitable. They would do nothing rash, but would demand a faithful performance of the trust.

If the agents, themselves closely in touch with policyholders, were to demand this the directors could not with good grace refuse. Where is the man of good repute—and nearly all of these directors are men of the highest reputation—who, after the exposures which have now been made would dare deny that the control of these funds ought to be vested in their owners? And where the director who knows that his hands

dare deny that the control of these funds ought to be vested in their owners? And where the director who knows that his hauds are clean and his conduct in office above reproach who would dare disclose his fear that the policyholders would have none of him? That plan can be carried in the board of directors by the required three-fourths vote at two consecutive meetings.

When carried it will change the aspect of things from hopeleseness to promise. It will mean that every trustworthy man on the board will be sure of reelection; the others will not even dare to seek it. It will mean that every officer who has done his duty will be retained and will also be protected from tyranny and mistreatment. It will mean security forever for the funds of the policyholders—there will not even be a struggle about that; and it will mean such progress and it will mean such progres will give this great mutual company a as will give this great litter as the better claim upon the public than ever before, instead of a worse one. It will mean turning defeat into victory—that the explanations will have to be made by other companies instead of by the Equitable. MILES M. DAWSON. NEW YORK, April 17.

A Call on Mr. Tarbell.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Now that both Mr. Hyde and Mr. Alexander are said to have placed in the hands of Mr. Murray, the cashier of the Equitable, the funds obthe policyholders whose endowments matured in 1904 with a surplus cut about 40 per cent. below that of the year 1903 would like to see Mr. Tarbeil deposit the \$135,000 re-ceived by him in February last as a com-muted renewal interest until the investiga-ting committee or reliable actuaries can de-termine what, if any, actual claim he had

against the company.

This would be approved by policyholders and agents and would be an object lesson to the agents and directors of the company, without sacrificing any just claim.

BROOKLIN, April 17.

A SUFFERER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: In a discussion few days ago about the game of "jacks" or "jacks" stones," somebody asked the question, "Where did the game originate and how old is it?" Nobody knew just where it had come from or how old it might be, but we were all agreed that it must be a very old game. One of the ladies present volun-teered the information that children in France, about fifty years ago, used to play a modification of the present game with the heel bones of sheep, Surely, some of THE SUN'S correspondents must have some ideas on the subject which will be inter-

The French children called the game "Osselet. meaning "a little bone." In those days, however, there was no rubber ball such as children in Amerlea use now, but one of the bones was used to toss p before picking up the other bones.

According to ancient writers, jackstones was played in Greece with the knuckle bones of sheep, and Aristophanes (644-388 B. C.) described it as a girls' game. It is popular

Lord Curson "Called Down." To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: At a public neeting held at the Victoria Public Hall, Madras, on Wednesday, March 22, 1905, with M. R. Ry, N.

Subba Row Pantulu in the chair, the following resolutions were adopted:

"I. Proposed by Mr. V. Kristnasawmy lyer, seconded by the Hon'ble Mr. M. Kristna Nair, and supported by the Hon'ble Mr. E. Venicata Row, that this meeting of the citizens of Madras respectfully protests against the unfounded reflections cast upon Indian Character and Sacred Literature by His Excellency the Viceroy, Lord Curson, to his address at the last Convocation of the Calcutta University, and expresses its deep regret at the re-actionary policy which has characterized His Lord ship's Indian administration. [Carried.] "2. Proposed by the Hon'ble Mr. L. A. Govinda

Ragava lyer, seconded by the Hon'ble Mr. P. S. Sivasawmy lyer, and supported by Dr. T. M. Nair, that a copy of the above resolution be submitted by the chairman of this meeting to the Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State for India. [Carried.]

MADRAS, March 28. N. SURBA Row, Chairman.

Civilization of the Crows.

Ratings correspondence Anaconda Standard. Major S. G. Reynolds, agent of the Orow Indian agency, was here to-day and says that his wards are making rapid advancement along material lines. During the past year they have erected over 100 new and comfortable homes, planted around them 1,000 shade trees and builded good barns for their stock. This year the Crows hav aiready planted 2,000 acres of wheat and 1,000 acre

Stella-Is there any truth in the reported merger of George and Mabel?
Bells—At present they have simply formed a

THE STATE OF OUR FOREIGN TRADE.

WASHINGTON, April 17 .- The fiscal year 1904 closed with a trade balance of \$170,000,000 in our favor. The balance for the first nine months of the current year is \$116,000,000 less than that of the corresponding period of the preceding year. As there is nothing in trade conditions which promises either greatly increased exports or greatly lessened imports during the remaining months of the current fiscal year, the probability is that our favorable trade balance will be less than it has been during any year since 1897. Inasmuch as neither experts, students nor theorists have yet been able to figure out the particular influence and effect of trade balances on such a country as the United States, there seems to be nothing

in the situation which need cause any loss

of sleep over the matter. The cause of the present shrinkage appears in the increase of imports. An analysis of items shows that much the larger part of the increase occurs in articles which either contribute to our industrial welfare or indicate the general prosperity of our people. In the former class there appear such raw materials as hides and skins, india rubber, copper ore, tin, fertilizers and wool. In the latter class an increase in coffee and sugar points to an ability to buy freely of those articles of domestic consumption while increased importation of diamonds and raw silk points to the ability of the American people to gratify their desire for gems and fine raiment. The only inference which can be drawn from the increase in our imports is that it is a sign of national prosperity.

The value of our exports, in its total, has varied little for the last three years. The shrinkage in agricultural items has been fairly offset by the increase in other lines. The decrease in the item of breadstuffs has been \$50,000,000 for the nine months of the present year. Shipments of provisions have fallen off about \$11,000,000. Inasmuch as Canada, to some extent a competitor in these lines, reports a similar decrease, it may be inferred that some of this less is due to a less active demand in the markets of Europe. Exports of raw cotton have increased by more than 1,000,000 bales, but the lower price reduces the export value by \$30,000,000 in comparison with the first nine months of the fiscal year 1904.

A marked increase appears in sales cotton goods, in copper, and in iron and steel and manufactures thereof. In these lines we are having the best year in our history. Yet in notable branches of articles of this class there is a most undesirable fixity. Agricultural implements, electrical appliances, builders' hardware and general machinery show no very important gains.

Considering only that which we are doing our foreign trade may be said to be in very satisfactory condition. Considered in the light of possibilities, there is little in it which is creditable to our commercial energy.

BLACK "BAT."

History of an Early Masterson of the Virginia School.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Reading about "Col. Masterson of Kentucky" in Sunday's Sun, I recall that in my boyhood there was a Bartholomew or "Bat" - Masterson in Lexington, Mo. His parents were of Afri-can birth, owned in Virginia by a Mr. Bartholomew Masterson when "Bat" was born When death, "with equal foot," called on Mr. Masterson, and his chattels were sold, "Bat fell to a man who took him to Lexington, the chattel bearing with him the frank and fine manners, the easy and polite address of a Richmond gentleman of the Golden Age. And he took, also, a dignity of manner which, like the shoes given to Christian in the House Beautiful, "would not wear out." Black as Noz plus Erebus, five feet high, and eight feet at his equinoctial colure, he was still attractive; neat, precise, clean shaven, wearing a swallowtail blue broadcloth coat, with brass buttons, buff vest and silk hat, "no sun upon an Easter day was half so fine a sight." These charms covered him all over, like a garment, and made his life a grand, sweet

By common consent the freedom of the city and command of his own time were his. His "mission" was to cry auctions, attend funerals as chief mourner, mind horses, act the part of a Davus to young Horaces, and fetch and carry notes and other light freight. At intervals he was sold by auction, bringing from 25 cents to \$2.50, and was very much

fetch and carry notes and other light freight. At intervals he was sold by auction, bringing from 25 cents to \$2.50, and was very much mortified if he failed to bring the larger sum. He took these affairs seriously. They were to him as coronals are to poets—grateful to him as book beer to the raging citizen when spring, delaying long, at last dips down upon our northern shore.

After due obeisance to his new owner, the latter would bid him maintain the status quo sais (readitionem).

I do not know as to your New York "Bat." but our "Bat" was never known to smile. As the deities of Helicon sent birds to whisper to Horace in the woods of Apulia all about the Muses, so night winds had told the infant "Bat" that sorrow is written over all the earth, and he never smiled again. It is not strange that one who walked down life's highway turnpike road, as he did, clothed as it were with the sun, should have regarded himself as superior to the other negroes. And as much as he was attached to the whites of Lexington, he never would admit them to an equality with the Richmond people in the Valhalla of his memory.

In spite of his gentleness be could be a Brutus when necessary. When the Federal troops under Col. Mulligan took the town—before Price took them— Bat sternly recommended that they be ordered out of town; to go way off an never come back no mo.' Could "Bat" the gun fighter have done more?

Although his merits were to him as a breastplate, whereby he was able to quench flery darts of wicked things, there was one unquenchable—the love of sleep. That same sinful sleep which held Bunyan's Christian, as in dura eatena, causing him to "lose his roll" on the way up the Hill of Difficulty; that sinful sleep which mastered Joe, the fat boy, in that magic mirror of life, the "Pickwick Papers"; and which, on the high and giddy mast, seals up the ahip boy's eyes.

Whether recubens sub tegmine, or in a chair, or even walkins along, an "exposition of sleep" would come upon "Bat," until at last he attained unto Nirvana. As the p

he came no more.

Although many of our townspeople, "to avoid the carnage and the Lycian troops," went to Europe. Canada, Texas, New York, and to the Far West, fulfilling various fates, all earnestly remembered "Bat," as did both those who went into Northern and Southern armies.

armies.

We hope that "Bat" Masterson, now of New York, may worthily wear the name which "Bat" Masterson of Virginia and of Lexington wore so well here, and now wears—no doubt, with all his former pride in the name—"far out beyond the void."

DENVER, April 14. POSEY S. WILSON.

Rural Mail Boutes. From the Railway and Engineering Review

The number of rural mail routes in operation March 1 was 29,998, which is an increase of 5.482 routes over the number in operation June 80, 1904. the close of the last fiscal year. There are pending 4.045 petitions for additional routes.

Since the service was cetablished there have been filed 44.194 petitions for rural rou tes, of which 10,158 have been rejected on adverse reports. Each of the 29,668 rural routes in operation means a monthly

Government on the operation of a single route. This causes a total annual deficit of about \$7,000,000 on account of rural service. Illinois is foremost of all the States in the matte of rural mail delivery. She had in operation March 1, 1905, 2,450 routes, which is an increase of \$26 since

senott of \$25, that being the average loss to th

the last day of the last fiscal year. Next to he ranks Ohio, with 2,161 routes, an increase of 345 since June 80, 1804. Iowa has 2,048 routes and Michigan 1,591.

When we travel, in the future, To the distant foreign clime. Will these be the preparations

Pack your trunk and buy your tickets, Read your Baedeleer improved. Then by way of final foresight Have grow vermiterm removed?

ELOCUTIONISTS VIEWS.

Criticism, Wholly Feminine, of Sir Henry

irving and Mary Anderson. The New York State Association of Elocutionists is having its sixth annual interchange of opinions in Polytechnic Institute Brooklyn. Less than fifty members were present at the sessions yesterday, but they

were all acute and interested. Mrs. Estelle Davis of Manhattan read a paper on "Technique: What is it?" in which she declared that teachers of elecution found very few pupils of the type of Mary Anderson, "who was so brilliant in her crude strength." Miss Anderson, she said, did not bring the world to her feet until she

became versed in technique.

One of the members said, in the discussion following Mrs. Davis's paper, that Sir Henry Irving once asked a member of the association to show him the technical exercises she taught and after the lesson declared that it would be impossible for him to go through the work. The speaker added that that was why Sir Henry suffered from so many mannerisms, although she thought him the greatest exponent of his art.

Miss Wentworth said she found it impracticable to teach technique along the stern lines laid down by Mrs. Davis. She was obliged to sugar coat it for her pupils in their recitations.

"I believe in allopathy," said Mrs. Davis, with strong and bitter does for the pupils."

Mrs. Genevieve Stebbins Astley of Manhattan talked on "Pantomime and Gesture."

with a considerable defence of the methshe taught and after the lesson declared that

hattan talked on "Pantomime and Gesture,"
with a considerable defence of the methods of Delsarte. She believes that feeling
follows gesture, instead of preceding it.
She takes her pupils riding in First avenue
cars to watch the gestures of humble people of foreign birth.

"I always study hands, heads and legs,"
she said. "I have had great fun sitting in
a window and watching legs as they come
and go on Broadway and Fifth avenue."

Miss Grace D. Clark of Bridgeport, Conn.,
read a paper on "The Character of Ophelia."
Mrs. Jessie Eldridge Southwick of Boston
discussed vocal expression.

discussed vocal expression.

The evening was devoted to recitals from Shakespeare, Schumann, William Butler Yeats and Goethe.

PANAMA VOTE UNANIMOUS. Secretary Taft Names Directors of the Rallroad Company.

Secretary Taft left for Washington yeserday on the Congressional Limited, after having held a very satisfactory meeting with himself in the capacity of the stockholders of the Panama Railroad. The meeting resulted in the election of a board of thirteen directors, seven of whom are members of the newly appointed Panama Canal Commission. The board is:

Theodore P. Shonts, John F. Wallace, Charles E. Magoon, Mordecai T. Endicott. Peter C. Hains, D. M. Harrod, Oswald N. Ernst, William Nelson Cromwell, William Barclay Parsons, Clarence R. Edwards, J. R. de Obaldia, Roger L. Farnbam and Edward A. Drake. As the by-laws require the "stockholders"

As the by-laws require the "stockholders" was in session two hours with himself while the balloting for directors was going on, the polls being open from 12 noon until 2 P. M. Entire harmony reigned during the casting of the votes, the stockholders chatting most of the time with Mr. Shonts, Col. Edwards, Mr. Wallace, Mr. Cromwell and others whose names were up for election to the directorate and who were present through all the most exciting stages of the election. The stockholders soon after he announced the result of the balloting, left the directors to organize the new company, of which Mr. Shonts will be made the chairman. Edward A. Drake, of the newly elected directorate, is Drake, of the newly elected directorate, is the former vice-president of the company Col. Clarence R. Edwards is the Chief of the Bureau of Insular Affairs. J. R. de Obaldia is the Panama Minister at Washington. William Nelson Cromwell is the counsel for the company. William Barclay Parsons is the expert engineer appointed by the

Government.
Secretary Taft said that the Government secretary tasks that the steamship and would operate both the steamship and the railroad lines, owning as it does sub-stantially all the stock of the Panama company. It is believed that the business of the company will be materially increased and that this will involve a corresponding increase of the working force.

OPEN DOOR IN MOROCCO. It Already Exists in Treaty.

WASHINGTON, April 17 .- The Moroecan situation is still the topic of much discussion and the developments, principally Germany's next move in her outlined policy of forcing the open door in Morocco, are awaited with much interest. The French Ambassador, M. Jusserand, has said to Government officials that Germany was informed of the agreement made last April between France and Great Britain concerning commercial conditions in Morocco The Kaiser's recent visit to Tangier and his declaration there that the open door must always exist was presumably taken to return to France the snub Germany was supposed to have received when she was not considered at the time of the Anglo-French agreement. The statement of the French diplomat that Germany was notified

brings about a conflict of views.

The French Ambassador, as well as Sir Mortimer Durand, the Ambassador from Great Britain, has pointed out that the open door still exists in Morocco by the very terms of the agreement or treaty of April 1, 1904. The treaty is limited to 30 years, but a provision is made for a five year extension after the 30 years have gone by. One of the diplomats here, representing a great Power, has cited a clause of the treaty of last April between France and England as it dicative of the existence of the open door. It is a portion of Section IV. of the treaty as follows:

"The Governments, equally attached to the principle of commercial liberty, both in Egypt and Morocco, declare they will not in those countries countenance any inequality, either in the imposition of customs duties or other taxes, or of fallway transport charges.

DEATH RATE MUCH LOWER. On the Whole the Spring Is Far Healthier Than Last Spring Was.

According to the figures given out by the Board of Health yesterday the death rate for last week was 4.06 points lower than the record for the corresponding week last year. Last week the death rate was 20.20 per thousand, as against 24.26 the year before. There were 117 deaths from meningitis last week, as against 110 the week before and 131 the week before that. The physicians of the department are of the opinion that the crisis has been passed and that the death rate will be the state of the opinion that the crisis has been passed and that the death rate will be the state of the opinion that the death rate will be the state of the opinion that the death rate will be the state of the opinion that the death rate will be the state of the opinion that the death rate will be the state of the opinion that the death rate of the opinion that the death rate of the opinion that the death rate of the opinion that the opinion t will continue to decrease. Last week there were 248 deaths from pneumonia, while for the corresponding week in 1904 there were 409 deaths. For the week ending April 8 there were 232 deaths from pneumonia, while for the corresponding week in 1904 there were 429 deaths.

> Whittiers of Danvers. From the Boston Herald

One day a stranger strolled into the old Berry tavern at Danvers. A number of men were seated in the office, and were asked by the newcomer: "Will you kindly tell me where I may find the Whittier house?" A young business man, not a native of the town, to be sure, but who had lived in number of years and belonged to New England, spoke up, saying; "You mean Joe Whittier, the contractor? He lives at Dan-

Whittier, the contractory He lives at Dan-versport.

"No, no; I refer to John G. Whittier."

"John G. Whittier? Never heard of him.
The only other Whittier in this town is Clar-ence Whittier, Janitor of the town house.

He lives on Essex street.

The stranger became both amused and impatient and esid: "I am talking about John G. Whittier, the poet; he's dead, you know. I want to find out where his home was."

"Oh, well," said the young business man with a sigh of relief at his ability to impar-information, "if it's anybody who's dear go right over to Will Crosby, the undertaker across the street, he'll tell you all about it."